

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the sixth paragraph of the Summary of the Invention, the first full paragraph on page 4, line 10, to read as follows:

In yet another aspect of the invention, the members can have the ability to act as a flow conditioner. The members if properly proportioned can act to redirect the fluid as the fluid exits from the element. As indicated above the members have a thickness and a width. The thickness and width can be used to define an aspect ratio, which is defined as the width divided by the thickness. The ability to turn the flow depends upon flow impingement on the surfaces defines by the width. Thus, the aspect [~~ratio~~] ratio is an important design feature. Preferably, the aspect ratio should be greater than about three.

Please amend the fifth paragraph of the Detailed Description, the second paragraph on page 7, line 9, to read as follows:

While all the bearing surfaces 20, 26, and 30 are shown as being generally [~~planar~~] planar, this is not a requirement of the invention. The bearing surface can be of any contour.

Please amend the sixth paragraph of the Detailed Description, the third paragraph on page 7, line 13, to read as follows:

In the case where the element (not shown) and the bearing surface 20, 26, [~~28~~] and 30 cooperate such that the element adopts a fair contour when engaged with the bearing surface, the adoption of an element of a fair contour will be a function of the spacing of the members and the structure of the element. In other words, for more flexible elements, the members will have to be relatively closer than for less flexible ones.

Please amend the eighth paragraph of the Detailed Description, the fifth paragraph on page 7, line 35, to read as follows:

FIGs. 6 and 7 depict yet another embodiment of the present invention. Therefore, like reference numbers preceded by the number 2 are used to indicate like elements. In this embodiment the support 212 is cylindrical. Beginning with FIG. 6, the retainer is being manufactured from a plate 32 having a thickness t , see FIG. 7. The plate has been stamped, but any cutting method is acceptable, to define the support 212 and members ~~[116]~~ 216. The member 216 has a width w that is greater than the thickness of the plate thereby defining an aspect ratio greater than 1. Referring to FIG. 7, the aspect ratio of the member 216 is the width w divided by the thickness t . If flow conditioning was desired the aspect ratio would have to be greater than about 3.

Please amend the ninth paragraph of the Detailed Description, the first full paragraph on page 8, line 11, to read as follows:

Continuing with FIG. 6, each member 216 has a pair of notches 34 that define an offset 38. In this embodiment, it is the intention that the surface of the member 216 and a surface of support 212 define the bearing surface (such as bearing surface 20 in FIG. 2). The offset 38 has a depth d which is the thickness of the plate 32. As a result when the member ~~[116]~~ 216 is rotated about an axis R , the abutment surfaces 40 will align with a surface of the support 212, similarly to bearing surface 20 in FIG. 2.

Please amend the twelfth paragraph of the Detailed Description, the last paragraph on page 8, line 34, to read as follows:

The retainers 50 and 52 are secured in the reactor housing 44 by an inlet housing 62 and an outlet housing 64. The inlet and outlet housings 62 and 64 are designed to ~~[slid]~~ slide into reactor housing 44 and contact the supports 58 and 60 of the retainers 50 and 52 on impingement surfaces 66 and 68. After contact, the inlet and outlet housings are connected to the reactor housing 44. This structure permits the elements 48, i.e. which are catalytic, to be secured by two elements that are permitted to float within the reactor housing 44.

Please amend the first paragraph of the Abstract, the paragraph on page 14, lines 4-6, to read as follows:

The present invention is a retainer [~~and a method of manufacture therefor~~] that can incorporate the ability to condition the flow of a fluid therethrough. The retainer defines ~~[an]~~ a bearing surface for buttressing an element having a fluid flowing therethrough. The retainer is comprised of a plurality of members that if given the proper aspect ratio can condition the flow of a fluid.